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REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application is made obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-5, 9-21 AND 24-28 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 9-21 and 24-28 stand rejected as being obvious over the Abrari et al. patent (United States Patent No. 7,020,869, issued March 28, 2006, hereinafter "Abrari") in view of the Serrano-Morales et al. patent (United States Patent No. 6,965,889, issued November 15, 2005, hereinafter "Serrano-Morales"). In response, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 17 and 24, from which claims 2-5, 9-16, 18-21 and 25-28 depend, in order to more clearly recite aspects of the invention.

The Examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the fact that Abrari and Serrano-Morales, individually or in any permissible combination, fail to teach, show or suggest the novel invention of creating at least one individualized language rule by scoping the contents of rule set input and output groups, from among which a user may select inputs and outputs (*i.e.*, variables) to a rule template, in accordance with one or more choices made the user, as positively claimed in the Applicants' amended independent claims 1, 17 and 24. Specifically, Applicants' claims 1, 17 and 24, as amended, recite:

1. A method of authoring and executing an individualized language business rule, the method comprising:
 - creating at least one individualized language resource, said at least one individualized language resource being mapped onto at least one executable object;
 - creating at least one individualized language rule referencing at least one of said individualized language resource, where said creating comprises:
 - creating at least one individualized rule template;
 - creating at least one individualized rule from said at least one individualized rule template, based on user-selected inputs and outputs to the individualized rule template, the user-selected inputs and outputs

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being selected by the user from rule set input and output groups, respectively; and

scoping contents of the rule set input and output groups in accordance with one or more choices made the user;

organizing said at least one individualized language resource and said at least one individualized language rule into at least one individualized language rule set; and

transforming said at least one individualized language rule into computer executable format. (Emphasis added)

17. A system for authoring and executing an individualized language business rule, the system comprising:

means for creating at least one individualized language resource, said at least one individualized language resource being mapped onto at least one executable object;

means for creating at least one individualized language rule referencing at least one of said individualized language resource, where said creating comprises:

creating at least one individualized rule template;

creating at least one individualized rule from said at least one individualized rule template, based on user-selected inputs and outputs to the individualized rule template, the user-selected inputs and outputs being selected by the user from rule set input and output groups, respectively; and

scoping contents of the rule set input and output groups in accordance with one or more choices made the user;

means for organizing said at least one individualized language resource and said at least one individualized language rule into at least one individualized language rule set; and

means for transforming said at least one individualized language rule into computer executable format. (Emphasis added)

24. A computer-readable media for authoring and executing an individualized language business rule, which when executed by a processor performs the steps of:

creating at least one individualized language resource, said at least one individualized language resource being mapped onto at least one executable

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object;

creating at least one individualized language rule referencing at least one of said individualized language resource, where said creating comprises:

creating at least one individualized rule template;

creating at least one individualized rule from said at least one individualized rule template, based on user-selected inputs and outputs to the individualized rule template, the user-selected inputs and outputs being selected by the user from rule set input and output groups, respectively; and

scoping contents of the rule set input and output groups in accordance with one or more choices made the user;

organizing said at least one individualized language resource and said at least one individualized language rule into at least one individualized language rule set; and

transforming said at least one individualized language rule into computer executable format. (Emphasis added)

The Applicants' invention is directed to a method and apparatus for business rules authoring and operation employing a customizable vocabulary. Rules engagement is a well-known and important technique for governance of distributed application systems. Rules are typically codified and rules systems are typically managed by programmers. Unfortunately, non-programmers such as business users are generally unable to participate in the management of distributed application systems due to lack of technical and/or programming expertise. Thus, either a business user must learn a programming language, or a programmer must anticipate the wishes of the business user and interpret them into a programming language.

The Applicants' invention addresses these concerns by providing an individualized language that allows a non-programmer to author logic directly carried out by a computer. The individualized language is a combination of permissible statements (e.g., if-then-else or the like) and a customizable vocabulary upon which the statements operate. The customizable vocabulary includes a plurality of individualized vocabulary terms (or language resources) in the parlance of the intended user that are each mapped onto an executable object. The vocabulary for authoring rules (i.e., from which

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a user can select variables for tailoring a rule) is scoped according to inputs, output and related vocabulary terms that are chosen by the user as input to and output from a rule set.

The Examiner concedes on Page 4 of the Office Action that "Abrari does not teach scoping authored templates and rules based upon rule set input and output groups". Serrano-Morales does not bridge this gap in the teachings of Abrari. Specifically, Serrano-Morales also does not teach, show or suggest scoping the contents of rule set input and output groups, from among which a user may select inputs and outputs (*i.e.*, variables) to a rule template, in accordance with one or more choices made the user. The Examiner submits in the Office Action that allowing a user to choose rule elements (*i.e.*, editable variables) from among a list of choices comprises scoping in accordance with a user choice, as claimed by the Applicants. The Applicants respectfully disagree. In particular, the Applicants emphasize that the invention does not claim scoping the rules themselves according to user selections, but rather scoping the list of choices available to the user for building the rules (*i.e.*, the variables, or, in the parlance of Serrano-Morales, the "rule elements"), in accordance with user selections (*e.g.*, of vocabulary, inputs and outputs). For example, Serrano-Morales teaches in FIG. 5 that a rule can specify a product to be promoted as "cognac", "wine", or "brandy". The final rule, the Examiner argues, is scoped by the user choosing one of these products as a rule element. However, what the Applicants claim is that the list from which the user can make this choice (*i.e.*, the list of "cognac", "wine", or "brandy" in the above example) is scoped by a previous user selection.

Serrano-Morales simply does not teach, show or suggest that the choices available to the user for selection as a rule element are scoped according to previous selections made by the user. At most, Serrano-Morales suggests that the choices may be pulled from an external database (See, Serrano-Morales at column 8, lines 44-46). Thus, Serrano-Morales, like Abrari, does not contemplate the user as a source for scoping the choices from among which a rule template variable (*e.g.*, an input, output, or "rule element") can be chosen.

As such, the Applicants submit that claims 1, 17 and 24 are not made obvious by

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the teachings of Abrari in view of Serrano-Morales. Therefore, the Applicants submit claims 1, 17 and 24 fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and are patentable thereunder.

Claims 2-5, 9-16, 18-21 and 25-28 depend from claims 1, 17 and 24 and recite additional limitations therefor. Accordingly, and for at least the same reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-5, 9-16, 18-21 and 25-28 also are not made obvious by the teachings of Abrari in view of Serrano-Morales. Therefore, the Applicants submit claims 2-5, 9-16, 18-21 and 25-28 also fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103 and are patentable thereunder.

II. CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of the presented claims fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all of the presented claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

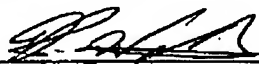
If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

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Date

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Respectfully submitted,


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